

**Sustainable Natural Resource Funding  
Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Marshall CCB/Grimes Farm Nature Ctr – Marshalltown, IA**

**12p – 4p      August 22, 2007**

Committee members present:

Mark	Ackelson	Duane Sand – proxy	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Dan	Cohen	Present	IACCB
Dick	Dearden	Absent	IA Senate-Democrat
Barbara	Finch	Present	Iowa Farm Bureau
Rich	Leopold	Present	IA Dept of Natural Resources
Lola	Lopes	Angela Grover – proxy	The Nature Conservancy
Mary	Lundby	Present	Iowa Senate - Republican
Pauline	Novotny	Present	Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Jane	Clark	Present	Sierra Club
Marian	Riggs-Gelb	Present	Iowa Environmental Council
Henry	Rayhons	Absent	Iowa House of Representatives-Republican
Deb	Ryun	Absent	Conservation Districts of Iowa
Marvin	Shirley	Present	Farmers Union
Ken	Tow	Present	Secretary of Agriculture
Dave	Van Waus	Present	Pheasants Forever
John	Whitaker	Absent	IA House of Representatives-Democrat
tbd		Replacement Pending	Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Committee Support Staff

Kim	Rasler	IA DNR / SF Support
Peter	Fritzell	IA DNR / SF Support

Public present:

Susan	Fenton	IDALS – Legislative Liaison
Deb	Kozel	LSA

**WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, INTRODUCTIONS – RICH LEOPOLD**

Rich welcomed the committee to the meeting and introductions were made. Jon Kruse will be the replacement representative on the committee for Ducks Unlimited.

**INTERIM COMMITTEE (IC) UPDATE – RICH LEOPOLD, PETER FRITZELL**

08/13/07 IC Meeting

The 08/13/07 SF IC meeting was very positive and productive. Legislators were interested in SF for Iowa's natural resources and how it will impact Iowa and Iowans. They reviewed and discussed aspects of sustainable funding as well as the funding requests for a Legislative/Agency Leader Panel Proposal and an Economic Study Proposal which will provide valuable information

to the IC. The legislators agreed to present the funding requests (estimated \$30,000 Economic Study, up to \$3000 for the Panel) before the Legislative Council for approval.

#### Economic Study Proposal Update

Peter Fritzell and Doug Harr (DNR) met with CARD on 08/16/07 to discuss details of what would be beneficial from the original economic study proposal and integrated additional requests for information the IC would like to see included, such as diminishing returns and what is the impact if Iowa does not have a sustainable funding plan for our natural resources. It was also noted that by 2012, 160,000 quality jobs will need to be filled due to retirements. A tentative timeline for the study would be: to have a draft by mid-October 2007 for review with the presentation of a final published report by the second week of November 2007.

Other resources the SFC are aware of that CARD may evaluate and extrapolate information from should be directed to Peter Fritzell ([Peter.Fritzell@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Peter.Fritzell@dnr.state.ia.us)) and he will compile that information and funnel it to the representative he is working with.

#### Legislative/Agency Leader Panel Proposal Update

The IC expressed they would consider the suggested representatives from the panel proposal and stated they have the resource, Caucus of Environmental Legislators, that would also be aware of individuals in other states to select for the panel.

#### Timeframe of IC Meetings, Funding Proposal Approvals

As of 08/22/07, the IC staff is working to coordinate their next meeting and the funding proposals for the economic impact study and legislative/agency leader panel is pending presentation to the Legislative Council for funding approval.

#### General Discussion:

A public meeting for the legislators was recommended to provide the public an opportunity to share their views with the legislators on sustainable natural resource funding. This would provide an important connection to the legislator and constituent on this issue. There is an opportunity to have a digital meeting in State field offices across Iowa.

Other important aspects discussed that the SFC will continue to strive for:

The people of Iowa should be given the opportunity to vote on a plan presented for SF.

Constitutionally protect the funding.

Promoting the accountability and planned evaluations of SF.

The funding will provide excellent opportunities for public and private partnerships.

The funding will provide critical and important leveraging for other dollars, such as from federal sources.

What may be considered amenities may need to be considered necessities to keep Iowans in Iowa and attract others to our state, and the affects this will have on rural and urban areas.

## **DECISION ITEMS**

### **Funding Mechanisms – Criteria and SFC Reviews for Presentation**

The IC discussed some of the ideas the SFC proposed and brought up a few new possibilities to explore to achieve the minimum \$150M recommended. The SFC discussed how best to focus on meeting the recommended need. Important aspects to guide when considering funding mechanisms:

Each mechanism should have the ability to reach at least \$150M.

Each mechanism should be sustainable – have the most consistent long term viability.

The five funding mechanisms polled will be reviewed by the SFC regarding these criteria.

**SFC MEMBERS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN VISITING ANY OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS THAT WERE NOT POLLED, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON THE ORIGINAL LIST IN THE 03/01/07 SF FINAL REPORT, SHOULD WRITE UP SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE SFC'S REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION AT THE 09/10/07 SFC MEETING.**

### **Funding Vehicles – Detailed Summaries**

The IC would like more information on how the SF revenue will be used.

The SFC determined small groups to work together to create a detailed summary of what results can occur from each funding vehicle. The summary should be approximately one page/a couple of paragraphs with approximately 6 bullet points.

### **Small Groups for Detailed Summaries**

#### **REAP** (Ross Harrison, Mark Ackelson)

Due to the uniqueness of REAP, the SFC determined to recommend REAP be fully funded (up to the fully authorized amount of \$20M, and request that \$20M of the protected sustainable natural resource funding be provided, in addition, to REAP.

**Local Conservation Partnership Program** (Senator Lundby, Dan Cohen, Dave VanWaus, Duane Sand, Angela Grover, Jon Kruse)

**Watershed Protection** (Ken Tow, Barb Finch, Jon Kruse, suggested DNR staff-Bill Ehm/Stephen Hopkins)

**Lake Restoration** (Mike McGhee)

**Trails** (Duane Sand, Jane Clark, Marvin Shirley, suggested DNR staff tbd)

**IDNR** (Rich Leopold, Ken Herring)

**IDALS** (Ken Tow, Barb Finch, Marvin Shirley, Duane Sand, Dave VanWaus, Deb Ryun)

**Next Meeting**

Date: Monday - 09/10/07

Hours: Between 12p-5p (time to be determined by meeting location hours)

Location: Des Moines (location to be determined)